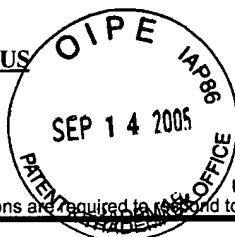


Express Mail Label No.: EV 376272293US  
Date of Deposit: September 14, 2005



09-16-08

Attorney Docket No.: 27996-232-UTIL

#006  
ZAW

PTO/SB/30

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

# REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 09/540,756         |
| Filing Date            | March 31, 2000     |
| First Named Inventor   | Laura L. Mahan     |
| Group Art Unit         | 2178               |
| Examiner Name          | Vaughn, Gregory J. |
| Attorney Docket Number | 27996-232-UTIL     |

This a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

## 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office Action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office Action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed:
- i. ☒ Reply to Office Action and Remarks to Accompany Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other:

09/19/2005 MBIZUNES 00000062 09540756

01 FC:1801

790.00 OP

## 2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Fees

The RCE fee under C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that are assessable in this application, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 27996-232-UTIL, Customer No.: 35437.
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee for \_\_\_\_\_ months (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17).
- b. ☒ Check # 2809 in the amount of \$790.00 is enclosed for RCE fee.

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

|                   |                |                                   |                    |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Peter F. Snell | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 52,235             |
| Signature         |                | Date                              | September 14, 2005 |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.